

WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, AUG. 2nd, 1948

MILTON STIEFEL

Presents

BRIAN AHERNE

in

“The Beaux’ Stratagem”

by

George Farquhar

with

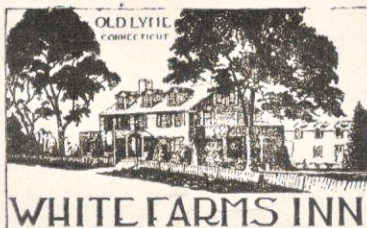
Carmen Mathews — John Merivale

STAGED BY MR. AHERNE

Assistant to Mr. Aherne—Arthur Marlowe

Production Designed by Don Finlayson

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—CAST OF CHARACTERS—

In the Order of their Appearance

Bonniface, Landlord of the Inn.....Richard Temple

Cherry, The Landlord's Daughter.....Maureen Stapleton

Aimwell	{	Two Gentleman of Broken for-	{	John Merivale
Archer		tunes, the first as Master and the		Brian Aherne
		second as servant		

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Dorinda, Lady Bountiful's Daughter Patricia Jenkins

Mrs. Sullen, Lady Bountiful's Daughter-in-Law
Carmen Mathews

Sullen, A Country Blockhead, brutal to his wife Guy Spaul

Scrub, Servant to Mr. Sullen Victor Beecroft

Gibbet, A Highwayman Leonard Lord

A Country Woman Alice Buchanan



COUNTRY DINNERS

Halfway Between

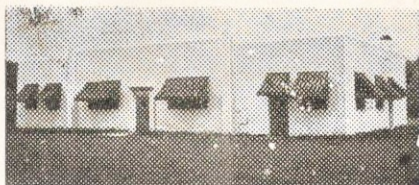
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CAST OF CHARACTERS (Continued)

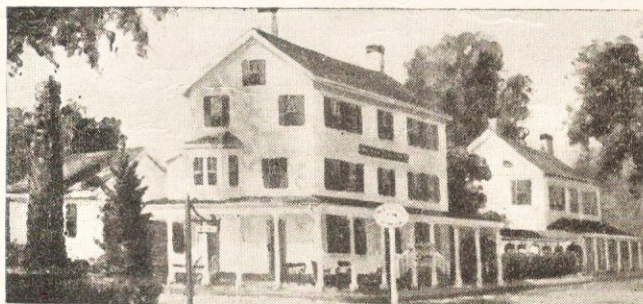
Lady Bountiful, A Country Gentlewoman, that cures all
her Neighbors of all Distempers... Mary Forbes

Hounslow } Gibbet's Companions { Robert Matheo
Bagshot } Theodore Anzack

Sir Charles Freeman, A Gentleman from London
Coulter Irwin

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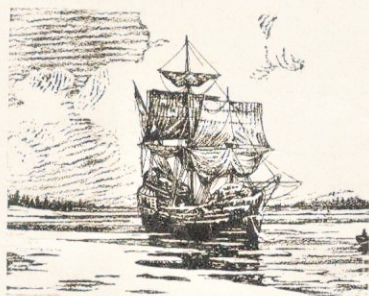
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—STAFF FOR MILTON STIEFEL—

General Manager.....	Irving Stiefel
Publicity Director.....	Allen Ludden
Treasurer.....	Gladys Whyte
House Manager.....	Theodore Anzack
* * * * *	* * * * *
Stage Director.....	Edwin Philips
Stage Manager.....	Edward Strum
Master Carpenter.....	Charles Rasmussen
Master of Properties.....	Bradley Gould
Electrician.....	Robert Matheo
Sound and Effects.....	Jean Marshall
Assistant Technician.....	Lonny Chapman
Assistant Technician.....	Bonnell Pearce
Assistant Property Manager.....	Barbara Carruthers
Assistant Electrician.....	Peggy Eppenstein
Assistant to the Designer.....	M. L. Finlayson

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THE IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE



"The Beaux' Stratagem"

In an 1808 edition of Farquhar's plays I recently found the following preface by Mrs. Inchbald, which may amuse the audience.

"It is an honour to the morality of the present age, that this most entertaining comedy is but seldom performed.

The well-drawn characters, happy incidents, and excellent dialogue, in "The Beaux' Stratagem", are but poor atonement for that unrestrained contempt of principle which prevades every scene. Plays of this kind are far more mischievous than those, which preserve less appearance of delicacy. In adorning vice with wit, and audacious rakes with the vivacity and elegance of men of fashion, youth, at least, will be decoyed into the snare of admiration.

Charmed with the spirit of Archer and Aimwell, the reader may not, perhaps, immediately perceive, that those fine gentlemen are but arrant imposters; and that the lively, though pitiable Mrs. Sullen, is no other than a deliberate violator of her marriage vow. Highly delighted with every character, he will not, perhaps, at first observe, that all the wise and witty persons of this comedy are knaves, and all the honest people fools."

It is said, that this play was written in six weeks—it is more surprising still, that it was written by a dying man!

Farquhar was an Irish gentleman of elegant person and bewitching address, who, having experienced the vicissitudes of life, as a man of fashion, an actor, a captain in the army, an author, a lover, and a husband; and having encountered bitter disappointment in some of his adventures—though amply gratified by others—He, at the age of twenty-nine, sunk into a dejection of spirits and decline of health. It had only been acted a night or two, when the author, in the midst of these honours, which he derived from its brilliant reception—died.

As a proof that Farquhar was perfectly sensible of his dangerous state, and that he regained cheerfulness as his end approached, the following anecdote is told:

The famed actress, Mrs. Oldfield, performed the part of Mrs. Sullen, when the comedy was first produced; and being highly interested in its success, from the esteem she bore the author; when it drew near its last rehearsal, she desired

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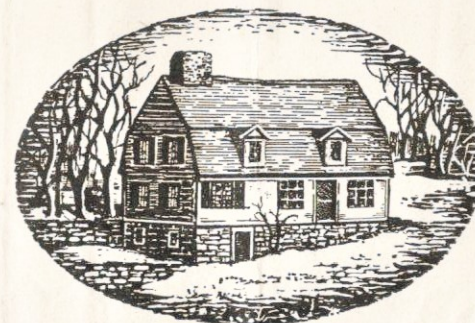
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Wilkes, the actor, to go to him, and represent—that she advised him to make some alteration in the catastrophe of the piece; for that she was apprehensive, the free manner in which he had bestowed the hand of Mrs. Sullen upon Archer, without first producing a divorce from her husband, would offend great part of the audience. "Oh," replied Farquhar, gaily, when this message was delivered to him, "tell her I wish she was married to me instead of Sullen; for then, without the trouble of a divorce, I would give her my bond, that she would be a widow within a few days."

In this allusion he was prophetic—and the apparent joy, with which he expected this dissolution, may be accounted for on the supposition—that the profligate characters, which he portrayed in "The Beaux' Stratagem", were such as had uniformly met with in the world—and he was rejoiced to leave them all behind.

In spite of Mrs. Inchbald's disapproval, "The Beaux' Stratagem", written in 1707 for his friend, the great actor, Wilkes, has always been one of the most popular and widely played pieces of the English stage. One of the most delightful productions of all time must have been that in which David Garrick played "Archer" to Peg Woffington's "Mrs. Sullen". It is said that Archer was one of Garrick's favorite roles, and he played it for his farewell to the stage. Colley Cibber chose the part of Scrub. Lewis, Woodward, Charles Kemble, Russell Thorndike, and Edith Evans are only a few names in the galaxy of stars who have appeared in this play. Sir Nigel Playfair, who himself played Gibbet, the role of Cibber's choice, produced the play in London in 1929, with myself as Archer and Edith Evans as a scintillating Mrs. Sullen.

The first performance in America was at Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1736, and the most recent, a revival by the Players Club at the Hampden Theatre, New York, in 1928.

Signed:

BRIAN AHERNE